

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: MILAN STUDENTS NON-VIOLENT REACTIONS TO Malfatti  
REFORM AND INCIDENTS AT ROME UNIVERSITY

SUMMARY. STUDENT OBJECTIONS TO Malfatti REFORM BILL  
COUPLED WITH VIOLENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF ROME HAVE  
TRIGGERED SERIES OF RELATIVELY PEACEFUL OCCUPATIONS,  
MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN MILAN. UNIVERSITY  
ADMINISTRATORS AND STUDENT LEADERS HERE TELL US THESE  
DISTURBANCES AMONG MILANESE UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS DUE MAINLY TO UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.  
CONSENSUS IS THAT FERMENT WILL PROBABLY HAVE RUN ITS  
COURSE BY WEEK'S END. END SUMMARY.

1. INCIDENTS AT ROME UNIVERSITY  
ON FEBRUARY 1 AND 2 PROVOKED SEVERAL DAYS OF RELATIVELY  
PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS AND MARCHES AMONG MILANESE HIGH  
SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AS WELL AS BRIEF OCCUPATION  
OF STATE UNIVERSITY ON FEBRUARY 1. ONE WEEK LATER  
EXTREME LEFTISTS OCCUPIED BOTH STATE AND POLYTECHNIC  
UNIVERSITIES AS PROTEST AGAINST Malfatti REFORM PROJECT,  
AND MARCHES AND PROTESTS IN DOWNTOWN MILAN AND AT UNIVERSITY  
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CAMPUSES BEGAN AGAIN. OCCUPATION OF THE POLYTECHNIC  
LASTED SEVERAL DAYS, WHILE THAT OF STATE UNIVERSITY STILL  
CONTINUES IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS. RELATIVELY PEACEFUL  
CHARACTER OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND MARCHES IN MILAN CHANGED  
SOMEWHAT AFTER FEBRUARY 07 LAMA SPEECH AT UNIVERSITY OF  
ROME WHEN HOSTILITY TOWARDS PCI AND AMONG EXTREME LEFTIST  
GROUPS RESULTED IN SOME INCIDENTS OF MINOR VIOLENCE.

2. ACCORDING TO STUDENT LEADERS, SUPPORT FOR THE POSITIONS ADOPTED BY DEMONSTRATORS IS WIDESPREAD AMONG STUDENTS. HOWEVER, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN MARCHES, OCCUPATIONS AND ASSEMBLIES IS LIMITED TO MILITANT MINORITY. MANY OF THESE MILITANTS CALL THEMSELVES AUTONOMISTS, SIGNIFYING BOTH THEIR NON-ADHERENCE TO ORGANIZED GROUPS AND THEIR DISDAIN FOR SUCH GROUPS. BECAUSE OF THEIR ADVOCACY OF MORE EXTREMIST STUDENT POSITIONS, "LOTTA CONTINUA" (LC) AND "MOVIMENTO DEI LAVORATORI PER IL SOCIALISM" (MLS) ALSO ENJOY SUPPORT OF WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVISTS.

3. AS IN ROME, MILITANTS HERE ARE SAID TO BE EXTREMELY HOSTILE TOWARDS PCI, WITH YOUNG COMMUNISTS REGARDED BY MILITANTS AS PART OF ESTABLISHMENT. (MILAN PCI HAS TAKEN NEGATIVE POSITION ON OCCUPATION OF MILAN UNIVERSITIES SINCE BEGINNING OF CURRENT DEMONSTRATIONS.)

4. HOSTILITY OF MAJORITY LC-MLS-AUTONOMIST FACTIONS EXTENDS EVEN TO EXTREME LEFTIST "AVANGUARDIA OPERAIA" AND PDUP, WHICH MILITANTS BELIEVE TOO CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH UNIONS (AND, THEREFORE, WITH ESTABLISHMENT). IN FEBRUARY 21 ASSEMBLY AT STATE UNIVERSITY, PARTICIPANTS PASSED AUTONOMIST MOTION TO BAR AO AND PDUP REPRESENTATIVES FROM TAKING PART IN FUTURE ASSEMBLIES. SOME MINOR VIOLENCE HAS RESULTED. MLS MEMBERS ATTACKED SOME YOUNG COMMUNISTS AT STATE UNIVERSITY AND THERE WERE SEVERAL SCUFFLES BETWEEN AUTONOMISTS AND AO MEMBERS DURING MARCHES WHICH TOOK PLACE OVER WEEKEND.  
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5. "COMUNIONE E LIBERAZIONE" (C&L) UNIVERSITY LEADERS HAVE TOLD US THERE IS ALSO MUCH ANTAGONISM AMONG LEFTISTS TOWARDS C&L-ORIENTED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ("CATTOLICI POPOLARI"). C&L MEMBERS HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES HOOTED OUT OF ASSEMBLIES FOR ACCUSING BOTH THE COMMUNISTS AND EXTRAPARLIAMENTARY LEFTISTS OF USING CRISIS TO FOSTER THEIR OWN ENDS RATHER THAN TRYING TO RESOLVE STUDENTS' PROBLEMS. THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO ACTIVITY FROM FAR RIGHTIST GROUPS.

6. THERE IS ALMOST UNIVERSAL AGREEMENT AMONG UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS AND STUDENTS TO WHOM WE HAVE TALKED THAT UNDERLYING CAUSE OF CURRENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN MILAN IS UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN GENERAL AND UNIVERSITY GRADUATES IN PARTICULAR. ALTHOUGH NO ONE CLAIMED TO HAVE SOLUTION FOR PROBLEM, ALL AGREED THAT GOVERNMENT AND UNIVERSITIES WOULD HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH IT OR SITUATION WOULD WORSEN.

7. GENERAL FEELING AMONG STUDENTS AS REFLECTED BY STUDENT LEADERS HERE IS THAT Malfatti Reform Project does not address itself to critical problems facing students and even takes away some of more liberal reforms adopted in recent years. One university administrator said that Malfatti Circular had created much resentment among students and that even without events at University of Rome, demonstrations would probably have been disrupted here.

8. Although classes in important liberal arts department are still suspended, classes in several other departments that had been occupied took up again February 21. Despite strike scheduled for February 23 and proposal to re-occupy university over coming weekend, general feeling among students is that, unless reanimated by serious incident, current round of demonstrations has limited official use

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PEAKED. REASONS INCLUDE COMPETITION FOR HEGEMONY AMONG LEFTIST GROUPS (MAKING UNITY OF ACTION INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT), UNCONCERN AND REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE ON PART OF MANY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, CLOSING OF HIGH SCHOOLS FOR MILAN CARNEVALE ON FEBRUARY 24 (HIGH SCHOOLS HAVE PROVIDED LARGE PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPANTS IN MILAN MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS), AND INCREASING PRESSURE FROM FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO CONTINUE WITH CLASSES AND EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THIS PERIOD. IF PREDICTIONS HOLD, ACTIVITIES AT MILAN UNIVERSITIES SHOULD RETURN TO NORMAL BY WEEK'S END. FINA

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